

## Virginia Adopt-A-Stream Program

### *General Conditions*

1. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) encourages local businesses, civic organizations, watershed groups, academic institutions, and scout groups to adopt local streams, rivers, and lakes for the purpose of managing litter along streambanks, shorelines, and waterways.
2. Typically, a team of two people can cover one mile of a lightly littered stream channel in about one or two hours. DCR suggests groups adopt no less than a half-mile of a stream or river. *Remember the number of volunteers needed for the cleanup will depend on the length of stream or river adopted.*
3. Adopting organizations will be awarded an Adopt-A-Stream sign, which will include the organization's name, to place at a location of their choice. (See #11)
4. Each group must include a participating adult of 18 years or older. Individuals under 18 years can participate in a stream cleanup if supervised by an adult. DCR recommends one adult per 6 youth.
5. Adopting groups agree to collect litter on both sides of the stream if possible, at least once a year. DCR recommends that groups conduct two cleanups per year; one cleanup in the late spring, early summer and one in the fall. Traditionally, the amount of litter is greatest during these times because of spring runoff and the beginning and end of the water recreation season. Groups that conduct cleanups more than once a year should notify DCR (*necessary for the adequate provision of supplies*). **Please return "Cleanup Event Notification Form" two weeks prior to waterway cleanup event.**
6. Participants must adopt a stream for a period of two years. After two years, the adopting organization may renew their designation and agreement, modify their designation (*choose a different stream*), or terminate the agreement.
7. The Designated Representative for the adopting group must conduct at least one safety meeting per year to review DCR-supplied safety information. No one may participate in a cleanup unless he or she has attended a safety meeting in the last 12 months. The Designated Representative may conduct the safety meeting immediately before a cleanup; however, this meeting must be held in a safe, appropriate area. At the safety meeting, the group leader should review the program's Safety Guidelines with all volunteers.

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8. The Designated Representative is responsible for notifying DCR if any of the adopting group's participants has a condition that might require special safety precaution or provisions covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
9. Adopting group members shall not trespass on private property. Permission from the property owner before entering private property must be secured.
10. DCR will provide Virginia Adopt-A-Stream Program recognition signs for each adopting organization. The adopting organization will be responsible for posting and maintaining the sign. Again, permission must be secured before posting the sign.
11. The adopting group is responsible for the pickup and disposal of all collected litter.
12. DCR encourages participants to separate and recycle materials to maximum extent possible.
13. Within two weeks of the project date, the Designated Representative for the adopting group must send copies of the sign-in sheets, all completed and signed safety liability release forms, and the stream cleanup data form to the Adopt-A-Stream Program Coordinator at

**Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Virginia Adopt-A-Stream Program  
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Richmond, Virginia 23219**

**Fax: (804) 786-1798**

**email: [adoptastream@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:adoptastream@dcr.virginia.gov)**

15. DCR encourages adopting groups to coordinate cleanups with other community events such as Stewardship Virginia.
16. DCR reserves the right to deny an adoption request or cancel the adoption agreement of any group.